



# Montgomery County Council

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Contact: Ken Hartman 240-777-7965, Merle Steiner 240-777-7961

## COUNCIL APPROVES RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE IN 10 ACRES NORTH OF STRATHMORE

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The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously today to move forward on efforts to preserve as green space up to 10 acres of the 19-acre property formerly owned by the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association -- located just north of the new Strathmore Hall Arts Center.

The resolution, introduced by Councilmembers Howard Denis and Nancy Floreen, calls on the Park & Planning Commission to begin assessing the designation of the 10 acres for inclusion in the County's Legacy Open Space program.

Legacy Open Space is a ten-year, \$100 million program to preserve from development significant environmental, historical, or open space properties in the County. To date more than 2,800 acres have been protected in 17 properties over the past four years.

"This open space is important to our cultural heritage because it enhances the setting of the historic Corby Mansion and the new Strathmore Hall Arts Center," said Councilmember Denis. "The space is a popular venue for outdoor concerts, festivals, and film and an important green break in the increasingly urban character of Rockville Pike, our County's main street."

"For almost 30 years our Master Plans have envisioned the preservation of this property and this begins the process of review that may grant it the protection that is long overdue.

"The Master Plan categorizes possible Legacy Open Space properties into three classes. Properties designated as "Class I" may be placed in reservation for up to three years while the County decides on the best way to preserve it. Designation as a Class 1 Legacy Open Space property will bring all of the tools the County has to bear to set aside this property from development."

"This land is a bridge between the center of cultural life in Montgomery County and a long established community," said Councilmember Floreen, who chairs the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee. "It also represents the last green environment before the commercial hubbub of Rockville Pike. This parcel of land should be protected for future public use."

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